



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### HARD LIFE OF A WILDLIFE EXPERT IS TOLD COLLEGE YOUTHS

Difficulties confronting young collegians who are anxious to become wildlife technicians and administrators recently were described by Arthur S. Minarsen, leader of the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Addressing graduate students of the Oregon State Agricultural College who study with the unit and anticipate obtaining full-time employment as conservationists, Minarsen told a story of hard work, consistent performance, and continued study.

The unit, which is financially sponsored by the Oregon Fish and Game Commission, the Oregon State Agricultural College, the American Wildlife Institute, and the Fish and Wildlife Service is similar to nine other units throughout the country where graduate students learn the fundamentals of wildlife conservation.

"Being a wildlife conservationist is no snap," he declared. "Competition is keen, the work is hard, and the pay is not the most important inducement to stay in the work."

Specifically, the unit leader pointed out that four general types of work are available in the wildlife field: Administrative and custodial, research,

protective, and education. With only a few exceptions, even administrative positions require a knowledge of wildlife and all other personnel of a wildlife conservation organization must have a competent understanding of the resource and its problems.

Requirements for a prospective conservationist include training and education, native ability, interest beyond the initial pay involved, energy, outdoor experience, a pleasing personality and selfdiscipline, adaptiveness and willingness to work, and specialization in certain fields. All things being equal, the hardest qualifications to meet are those relating to training and education, outdoor experience, and specialized abilities.

"It may be disconcerting to some individuals," Einarsen told the graduates, "but it may as well be realized now that a professional wildlife conservationist may have a nice sounding title but his work can nevertheless be very rough and very hard. It is no bed of roses, and if you can't take rough work, stay out of this field."

Aside from the difficulties of qualifying, which includes taking stiff examinations, it is not easy to get a job in the wildlife field, because there are comparatively few of these positions currently available. Most work in this field is now conducted by State game and fish commissions, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal agencies. Only a few private institutions and individuals carry on wildlife work with professional employees.

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